

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03574 191004Z  
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 INSE-00  
DODE-00 CIAE-00 SSO-00 /031 W  
-----097520 191008Z /17

O 190945Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8342  
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SREF, SN  
SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES ABOARD SHIPS IN SINGAPORE HARBOR

REF: A) STATE 197007, B) SINGAPORE 3335, C) HONG KONG 7913

1. EMBASSY KNOWS OF ONLY TWO VESSELS IN SINGAPORE HARBOR ATTEMPTING TO DISCHARGE INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES (REFTEL B). TWENTY-THREE REFUGEES ABOARD THE ALGERIAN SHIP, HAOUDI EL-HAMRA, WERE TRANSFERRED YESTERDAY TO ANOTHER ALGERIAN SHIP, SKIKDA, IN ORDER THAT THE HAOUDI EL-HAMRA COULD SAIL. UNHCR REP CARPENTER INFORMED CONOFF THAT ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAD TRANSMITTED DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO GOS THROUGH THE SINGAPORE MISSION IN GENEVA, STATING ALGERIA'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT ALL 23 REFUGEES WITHIN THREE MONTHS IF THEY WERE NOT RE-SETTLED IN THIRD COUNTRIES. IN RETURN, ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT ASKED GOS TO ALLOW REFUGEES TO COME ASHORE DURING THAT THREE MONTH PERIOD. DECISION ON WHETHER TO ACCEPT ALGERIAN GUARANTEE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY GOS.

2. ACCORDING TO SHIP'S AGENT IN SINGAPORE, SKIKDA IS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING REPAIRS AND WILL SAIL NO EARLIER  
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THAN AUGUST 25. THE NEXT POST OF CALL HAS NOT YET BEEN FIXED AND COULD BE ANYWHERE IN THIS REGION.

3. BASED ON BIO DATA PROVIDED BY UNHCR, 22 OF THE 23 REFUGEES ON SKIKDA APPEAR TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY INTO THE U.S. UNDER THE CE PROGRAM.

4. THE GOLDEN GATE SUN, THE OTHER SHIP IN SINGAPORE HARBOR, IS A SINGAPOREAN FLAG VESSEL. OF THE 50 REFUGEES ORIGINALLY ON BOARD, 12 HAVE ALREADY BEEN RESETTLED IN AUSTRALIA. OWNERS OF THE GOLDEN GATE SUN ARE STILL EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES OF GETTING GOS PERMISSION FOR REFUGEES TO LAND. ACCORDING TO THE SHIP'S AGENT, GOLDEN GATE SUN HAS NO CURRENT PLANS TO SAIL FROM SINGAPORE.

5. EMBASSY UNABLE TO ESTIMATE HOW MANY REFUGEES QUALIFY FOR CE PROGRAM ABOARD GOLDEN GATE SUN, AS UNHCR HAS NOT YET SUBMITTED BIO DATA. ACCORDING TO CARPENTER, SAMPATKUMAR TOOK THIS BIO DATA ALONG WITH HIM TO HONG KONG.

6. IN ADDITION TO THESE REFUGEES, THERE ARE 21 LANDED REFUGEES WHO ARE AWAITING SCREENING BY INS. TEN OF THESE PERSONS ARE ASHORE UNDER A GUARANTEE FROM THE GERMAN EMBASSY, WHICH IS DUE TO EXPIRE AT THE END OF THIS MONTH. IF U.S. CANNOT GIVE RESETTLEMENT ASSURANCE FOR THESE REFUGEES, THEY WILL BE OBLIGED TO LEAVE FOR WEST GERMANY.

7. SAMPATKUMAR HAS APPARENTLY OVER-DRAMATIZED THE SITUATION OF THE REFUGEES ABOARD THE VESSELS IN THE HARBOR. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, WOULD WELCOME VISIT OF INS OFFICER TO SCREEN REFUGEES MENTIONED ABOVE WHO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE UNDER GERMAN GUARANTEE AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS FOR AN INTERVIEW. HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** SREF, SN, VM  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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